

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Date: 04/02/2012

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: HCR 094(hscr1372-12)

Purpose of Resolution: REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A
TASK FORCE TO EXPAND A SCHOOL GARDEN PROGRAM
STATEWIDE.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education supports this resolution and will send a representative to participate on the School Garden Task Force.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

HCR 94, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO EXPAND A SCHOOL GARDEN PROGRAM STATEWIDE

Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health

April 2, 2012
2:00 pm; Room 309

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports this resolution.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** The DOH will convene the task force with an external facilitator; estimated cost is
3 \$7,500.00

4 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of House Concurrent Resolution 94 is to convene a task force
5 to determine how best to expand a school garden program statewide. The task force is required to report
6 its findings and recommendations, including recommendations for legislation and funding.

7 The DOH would like to support the development of school gardens statewide as part of its
8 chronic disease prevention strategy. The evaluation of school garden projects has demonstrated
9 improvements in students' knowledge, attitudes and behaviors related to the consumption of fruits and
10 vegetables. Benefits of a diet rich in fruits and vegetables include a reduced risk for heart attack,
11 diabetes, high blood pressure blood pressure, and some cancers.

12 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.
13
14



Monday, April 02, 2012
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 309

TESTIMONY TO
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: HCR 94: REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO EXPAND A SCHOOL GARDEN PROGRAM STATEWIDE.

Dear Chair Takumi; Vice Chair Belatti; and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robert Witt and I am executive director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS), which represents 99 private and independent schools in Hawaii and educates over 33,000 students statewide.

HAIS supports HCR 94 and finds that the aspirations expressed in this measure are aligned with the goals of our own farm-to-school initiative, GROW HAWAII.

GROW HAWAII is a member of the Hawaii Farm to School and School Garden Hui and the Oahu Farm to School Network, both of which are collaborative networks dedicated to addressing educational needs in agricultural sustainability by supporting existing school gardens, implementing new school gardens and integrating locally grown and made foods into cafeterias, snack programs, and after school programs with community involvement.

As HCR 94 states, many children in Hawaii have limited exposure to the wide range of locally produced healthy food available and do not know where the food they eat comes from or how their food was produced or prepared.

By supporting HCR 94, we will be able to continue to work with private, public and grassroots organizations to find solutions to food sustainability for the future of Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.